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The Ninety-Fifth Annual Meeting of The General Association of the Congregational Churches of New Hampshire.

BERLIN, N. H., MAY 24-25, 1904

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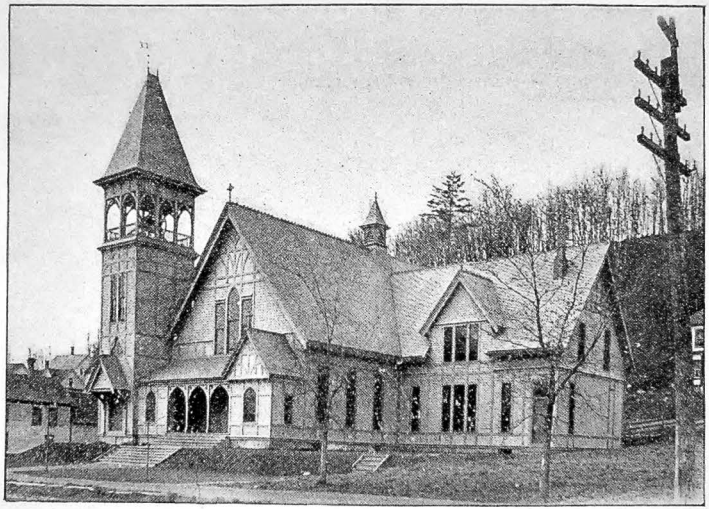
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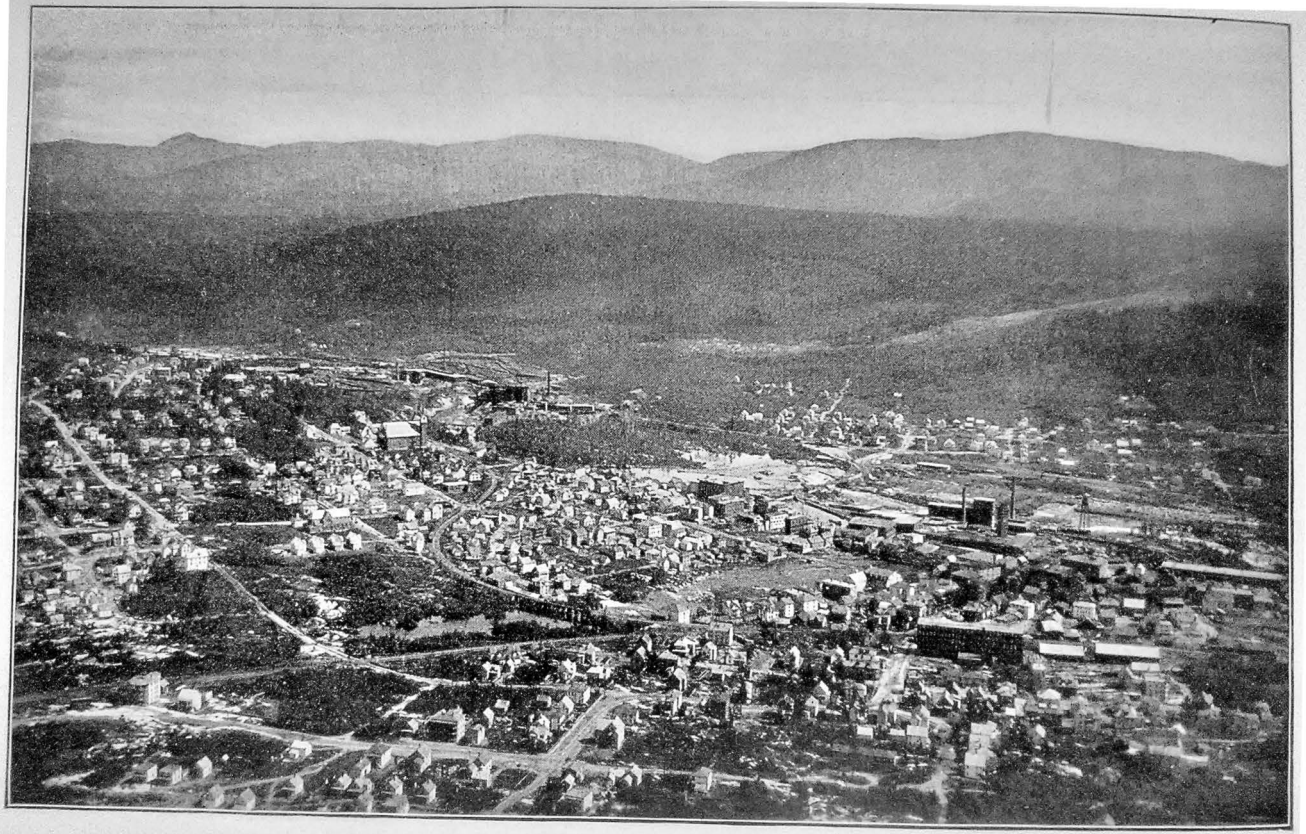
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Through Courtesy of the Boston & Maine Messenger.

The Ninety-Fifth Annual Meeting of the General Association of the Congregational Churches of New Hampshire.

BERLIN, NEW HAMPSHIRE, MAY 24, 25, 1904.

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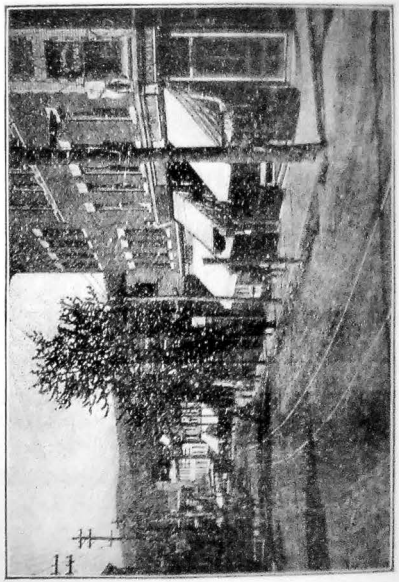
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Looking Down Main Street.

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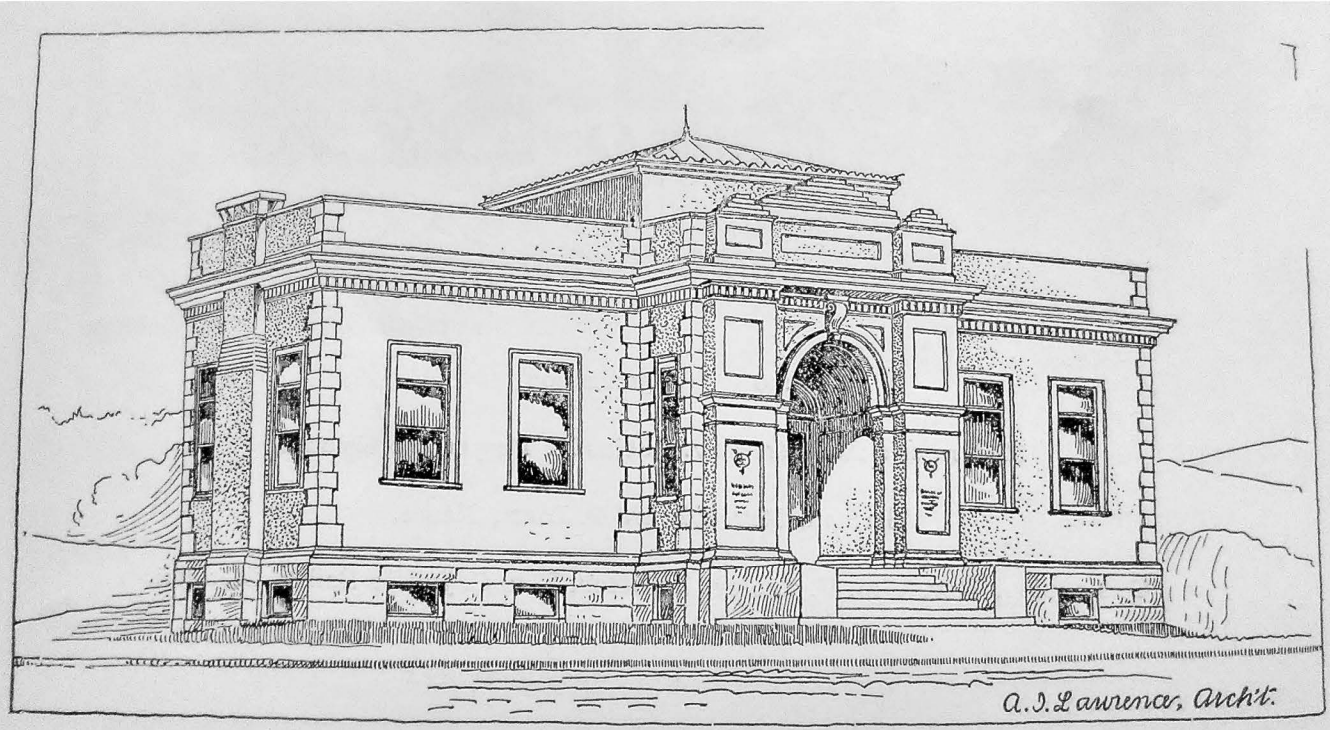


7:30 Organization.

Moderator's Address, Rev. Lucius N. Thayer, Portsmouth.

Sermon, Rev. Edward P. Drew, Keene.

Communion, Rev. Wm. F. Cooley, Littleton, Rev. C. Judson Bailey, Meridan.



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Program for Wednesday Morning, May 25th.



8:30 Devotional Service, Led by the Rev. James B. Sargent, Lisbon.

9:00 Business of the Association.

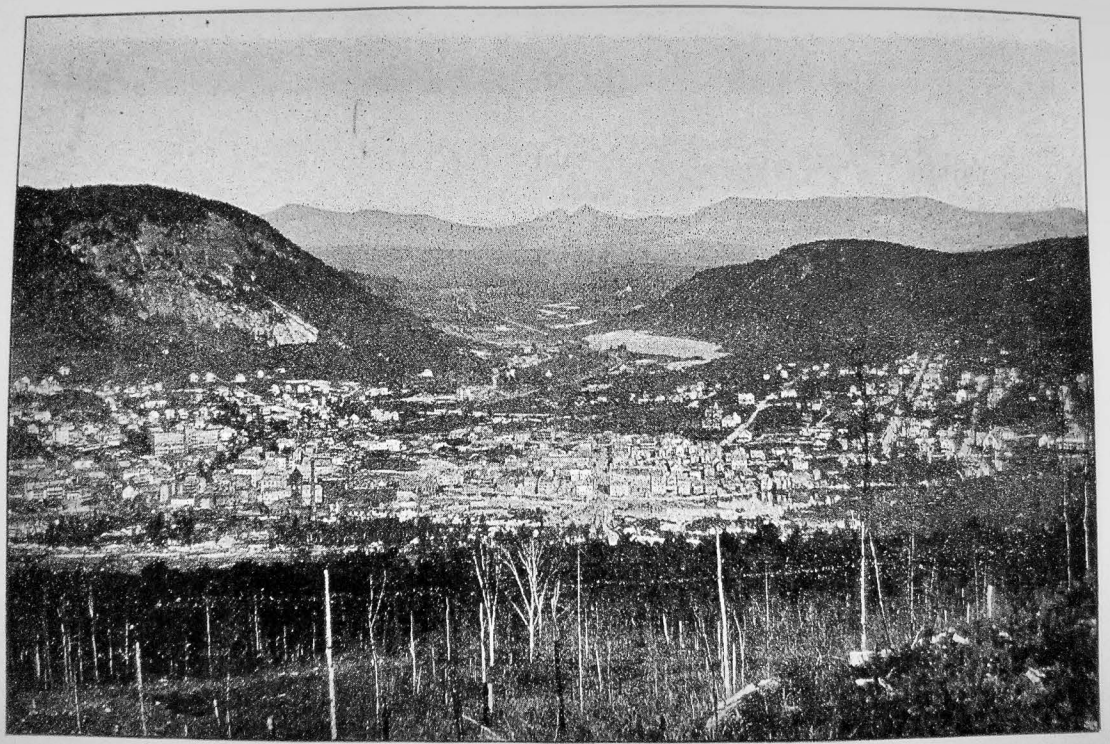
9:30 Statistical Secretary's Report. Narrative of the State of Religion, Rev. W. P. Beard, Durham.

10:15 Congregational Educational Society, Secretary Edward S. Tead.

10:45 Discussion. Church Union, Rev. Willis A. Hadley, Keene.

A Chapter in Church Making, The United Brethren in Christ, Rev. Richard L. Swain, Laconia.

11:45 Report of the Representative from Dartmouth College.



City of Berlin Looking up the Grand Trunk R. R.

Program for Wednesday Afternoon, May 25th.



2:00 Impending Changes in Congregationalism.
(a) Fellowship, Rev. David Wallace, Marlboro.
(b) Ritualism, Rev. Wm. H. Bolster, Nashua.

3:00 Ministers' and Widows' Charitable Fund Report.
Address, Rev. Thomas Chalmers, Manchester.

3:30 Discussion. The Family, Rev. W. P. Elkins, Bath.
Decadence of the Family, Rev. S. W. Dike, LL. D.

4.45 Business.

.·.The Alpine House.·.

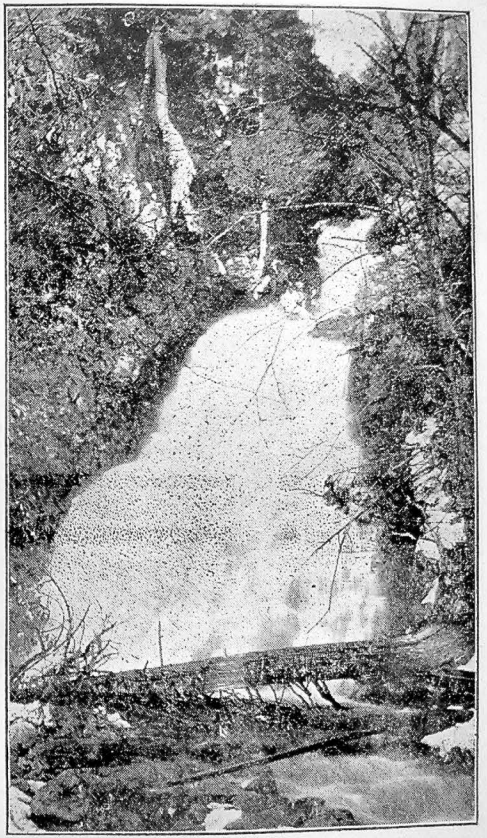
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Program for Wednesday Evening, May 25th.



7:15 Praise Service.

7:30 Address, "What is Spirituality?" Rev. S. H. Dana, Exeter.

8:00 Anniversary of the New Hampshire Home Missionary Society.

Address by Rev. W. G. Puddefoot, Field Secretary of the Congregational Home Missionary Society.

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A Sketch of the Early History

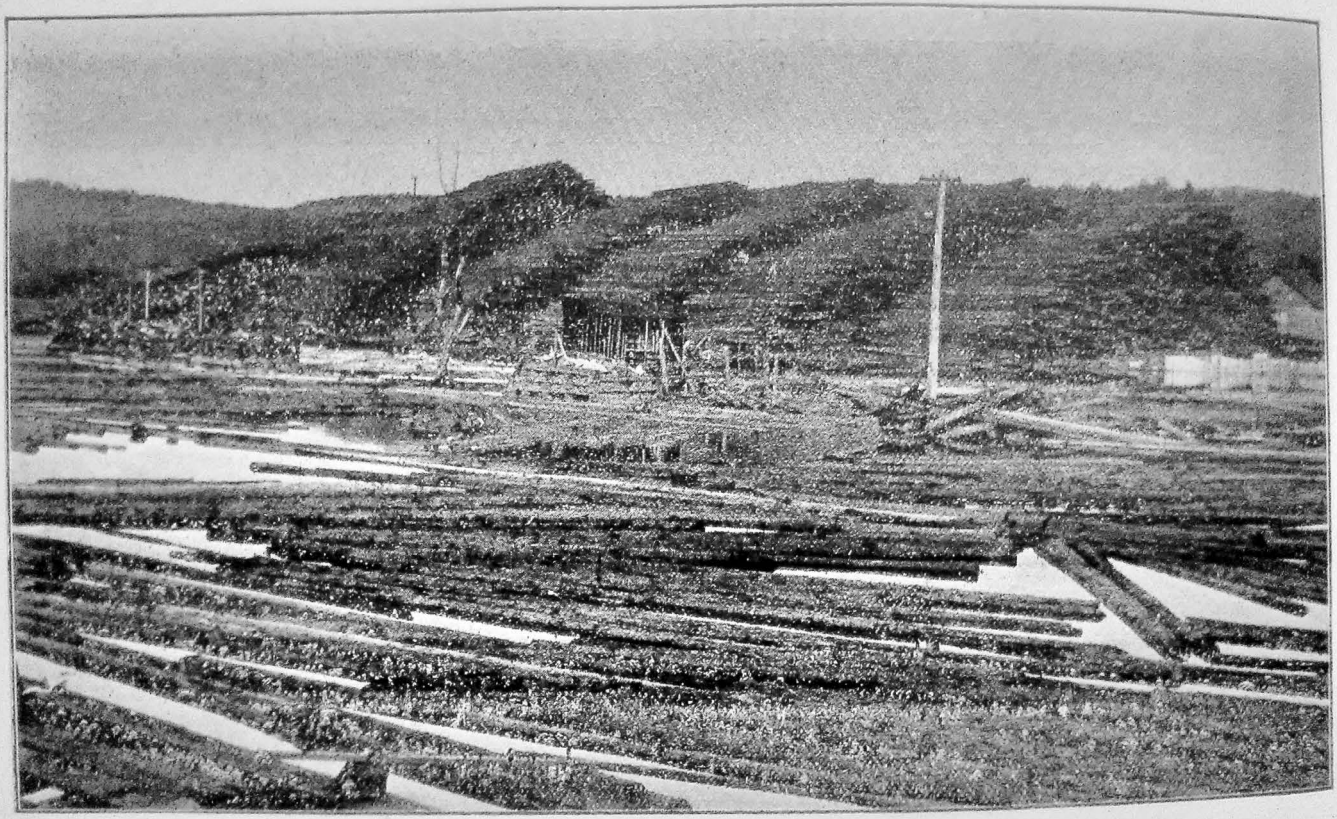
of the

General Association of Congregational Churches

of New Hampshire.

This body, whose ninety-fifth annual meeting takes place this year in Berlin, was organized in 1809, but previous to that time, indeed for many years after also, there was in existence an association of Congregational ministers called "The General Convention of Ministers in the Province of New Hampshire," organized as far back as 1747. The reason for the organization of the new body appears to have been the alleged necessity of greater theological strictness. Dr. Bouton, in his "Historical Discourse" delivered at the fifteenth anniversary of the Association, says of the older ministers of the Convention, "Though reputed orthodox, and standing together on the acknowledged platform and constitution of the churches, yet there was considerable diversity in their views, both of doctrines and measures. Many of them * * * were rather of Arminian tendencies, or, as they choose to be called, were moderate Calvinists." The rising generation of ministers were of a different mould. They had studied in the school of Hopkins, or Backus, or Smally, or Emmons, had come into the churches under the revival spirit which prevailed at the beginning of the last century, and apparently, demanded, therefore, an association having for its basis a creed more clearly defined and sufficient.

Accordingly, at a meeting of the aforesaid Convention held in Hopkinton June 3, 1807, "a committee was appointed to correspond with the several associations of the state respecting a union of the churches on the plan of doctrine generally expressed in the assembly's catechism." This committee reported the next year, 1808, that "for the purpose of drawing the bond of union more closely and



A Logging Yard on the banks of the Androscoggin River, Berlin, N. H.

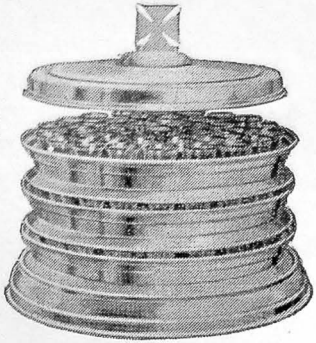
promoting general harmony and fellowship," it was advisible to organize the churches on the basis of the shorter catechism, and they arranged for a meeting of delegates from all the associations and churches that were of this mind to meet in General Association the next year, 1809, at the time and place of the next General Convention.

Following out these proposals delegates were appointed by the Orange, Deerfield, Hopkinton and Plymouth Associations, "a part of whom only met next year in the study of the Rev. Dr. McFarland and organized the General Association of New Hampshire." Of this meeting the Rev. William Morrison of the Presbyterian church of Londonderry was moderator, and the Rev. John H. Church of Pelham, scribe.

This was on June 8, 1809. In August of the same year the first meeting of the Association, after organization, was held in Boscawen in the study of Rev. Dr. Samuel Wood then pastor of the Boscawen church. Only nine delegates were present, representing six of the eight associations of the state. Their names may be interesting to some. Elihu Thayer of Kingston, moderator; John H. Church of Pelham, scribe, (in whose countenance, it has been said, might be seen "HOW AWFUL GOODNESS IS, AND YET HOW LOVELY,") Jesse Remington of Candia; Samuel Wood of Boscawen; Thomas Worcester of Salisbury; John Kelly of Hampstead; Moses Bradford of Francestown; William Rolfe of Groton, and William F. Rowland of Exeter—all ministers. No lay delegates appear to have been present.

In connection with the business meeting of the Association held in the study of the pastor there were public services in the church consisting mainly, it would appear, of prayer and preaching. The preaching of the gospel in futherance of the ordinary evangelistic purpose of the church occupied a larger and more important place in the early meetings than now. In Exeter in 1810 the record shows that five sermons were preached in public; "the business of the Association, with free discussions of various topics, was conducted with harmony and brotherly affection in Mr. Rowland's parlor." In Dunbarton in 1811 there were six sermons, "mostly on fundamental points of doctrine."

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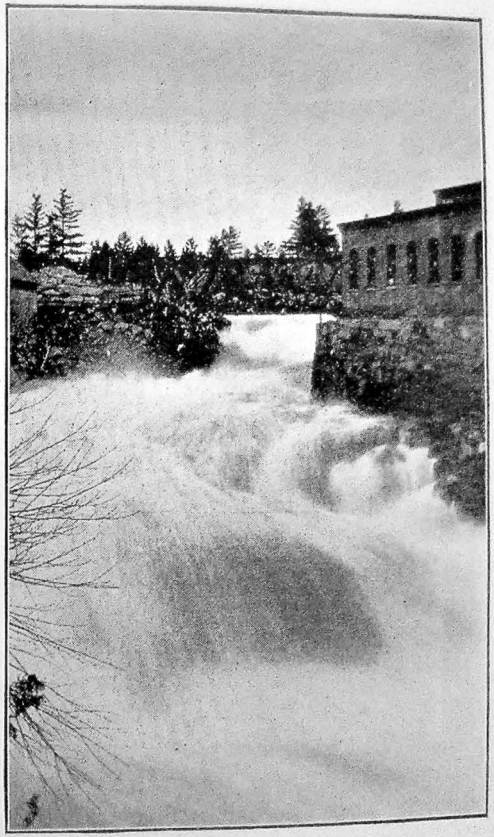
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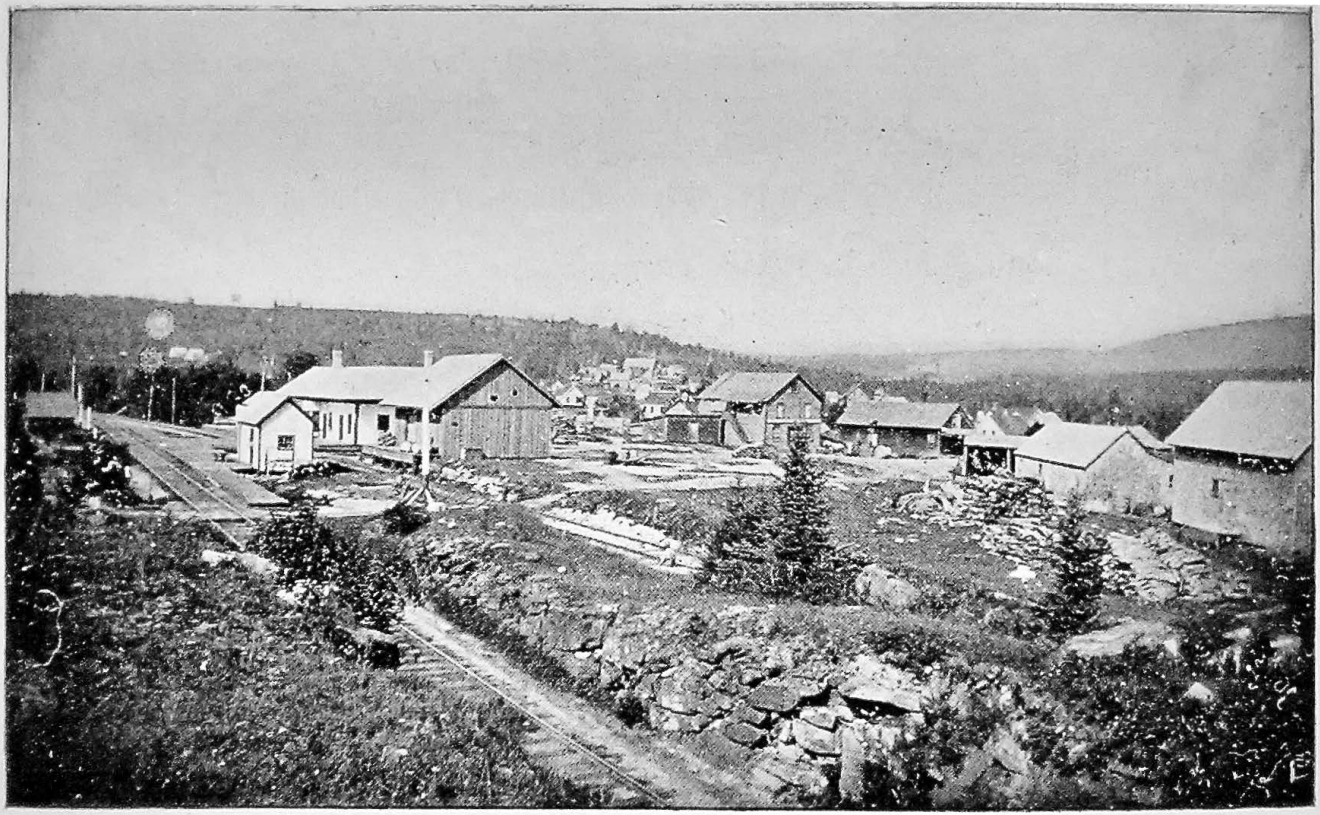
But practical measures were by no means overlooked, measures for the distribution of religous tracts, for the establishment of an institution for educating pious young men for the ministry, for the promotion of the cause of temperance. It is interesting to note the steps taken in the advance of this last named reform. In 1813 the Association recommends all ecclesiastical bodies to exclude the use of ardent spirits from their meetings; in 1820 members of the Association pledge themselves to abstain entirely from the use of ardent spirits and wine during the session; in 1832 they declare the use and sale of intoxicating drink an immorality; and in 1834 the Association solemnly resolves that it "will do all in its power, by example and conversation, to banish the destructive influence of intemperance from the earth."

That the Congregational clergy have not been lacking in worldly wisdom may be inferred from the report of a committee appointed in 1813 to recommend methods for increasing the funds of the missionary society. That committee reported that the missionary society should build a cotton factory and make its own money, and in support of its report elaborated five reasons! The report was not adopted.

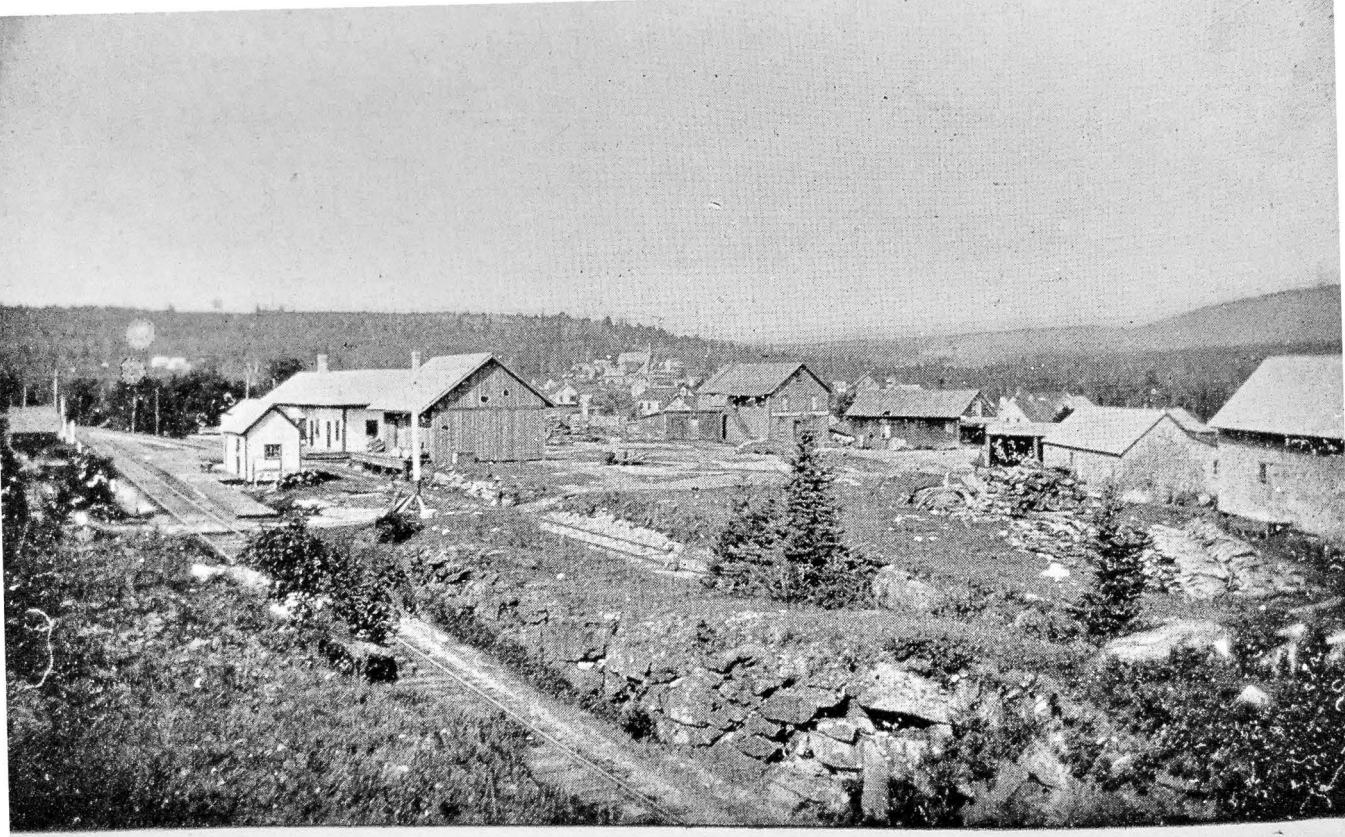
The position of the association respecting the vexed question of slavery seems to have been that of unvarying antagonism. At the same time it does not appear to have been in sympathy with the advocates of immediate and violent abolition. In 1834 it "resolved" that slavery should cease "at the earliest period consistent with its peaceable accomplishment;" in 1845 it protests "against all participation in the system of slavery, fraught as it is with such bitter and unmitigated evils."

In short, the Association has been full of faith and good works from the beginning of its career. In a manner that we may well be proud of it has fulfilled the purpose of its organization—to draw the bond of union more closely and to promote general harmony and fellowship.





Berlin in 1884.



Berlin in 1884.

Historical Sketch of the Congregational Church, Berlin, N. H.

From the time the town was organized in 1829 to 1836 there was, so far as known, no religious interest manifested by the few and scattered inhabitants. Possibly some wandering preacher would hold a meeting now and then on the Sabbath; but, if so, no record has been left of it. But in June 1836, according to the memory of the only one of those early settlers, who is now living among us, there arose spontaneously a demand for a Sunday School. Men, women and children met at the school house at the foot of Cate's hill for the purpose of organizing such a school. It was then found that there were only two men in the entire community who were men of prayer. But the school was duly organized; officers and teachers were chosen without reference to their previous religious character. From this small beginning there grew up a religious interest that became almost universal. It was reported that there was not a family in town in which some members at least had not learned to pray, and in some instances every member became a confessed Christian. The news soon spread to surrounding towns and ministers from abroad began to come in to witness the "wonderful reformation that was in progress in Berlin."

As a result, probably of this revival, there was appointed to be held in this place a quarterly meeting of the Free Will Baptist denomination. As there was no meeting house and as the school house was not large enough to accommodate such a gathering as this, a barn was fitted up for the purpose. The preachers present were Elders Cogswell, Bean and Austin Wheeler. People came from all the surrounding towns and in numbers and power the meeting was a great success.

For many years after this there was no regular preacher here. Occasionally some minister would send an appointment and a meeting would be held, yet, nevertheless, the interest seemed to die away. It was well along in the "fifties" before any further religious movement occurred. This time it was under the lead of the Adventists. An elder of that denomination by the name of Howard came here and held meetings and many became hopefully converted. But it does not appear that any arrangements were made for stated religious services, and so again the interest died away.

In 1870 or 1871 a Methodist pastor from Milan came to Berlin and organized a Sunday School, but this effort also had no permanent results.

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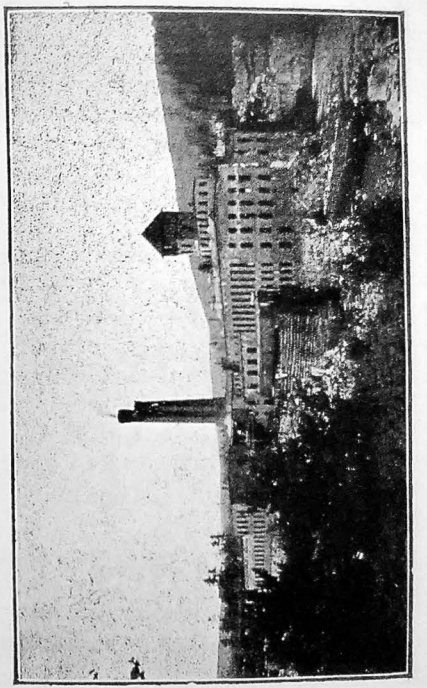
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Such was not the case with the labors of the Rev. A. J. Benedict the pastor of the Congregational church in Gorham who with the true spirit of a missionary began in 1876 or 1877 to hold meetings here in addition to his regular appointments in Gorham. Evidently Mr. Benedict had no idea of allowing the fruits of his labor to come to nothing through lack of organization; for in 1877 a "letter missive" was despatched to neighboring churches inviting them "by pastor and delegate to meet in council at Berlin Mills hall November 22nd" to consider the expediency of organizing the Christian people of Berlin into a Congregational church.

The council met as called and the church was duly organized on that date, November 22nd 1877. At the public services held in the evening of that day in recognition of the new church the Rev. E. Y. Hincks, D. D., of Portland, now professor of systematic theology in Andover Theological Seminary, preached the sermon. The charter members were Mrs. A. K. Allen, Sarah Bean, Carrie Ross, John Wilson, Hannah Wilson, Lizzie J. Parker, Almira Beattie, Lowella Coffin, Frank Coffin, Mrs. Charles Noyes, Clara Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Chester Bean, Eva Hobbs, Betsey A. Wheeler, Hannah M. Oleson, Lucy A. Spaulding, Effie Smith, Lettie A. Parker, Mrs. H. M. Andrews, Katherine Green, Mrs. Peter Phipps. The pastor also, Rev. A. J. Benedict, was one of the charter members. Of these, twelve are still members of the church and among the most esteemed.

There have been seven pastors and stated supplies of the church since its organization. Their names and terms of service are as follows:—Rev. A. J. Benedict, from 1877 to 1882; Rev. Albert Donnell, from 1883 to 1885; Rev. S. L. Bowler, from 1885 to 1890; the Revs. Henry Wheaton and William Coburn served but a few months each; Rev. John B. Carruthers, from 1893 to 1901; Rev. Rufus C. Flagg began his work September 1901 and is the present pastor.

A notable event in the history of the church was the erection and dedication of the present house of worship, which occurred in 1882 and 1883, during Mr. Donnell's pastorate. Its erection was made possible through the generosity of Mr. W. W. Brown of the Berlin Mills company. Previous to 1883 the meetings of the church were held in the Berlin Mills hall, a room now occupied by the dry goods department of the Berlin Mills store. During the pastorate of Mr. Bowler the church edifice was supplied with the bell that now calls its worshippers to assemble.

Several seasons of special religious interest have been enjoyed. During the pastorate of Mr. Wheaton, though so short, twenty-six members were added. In 1896, during the pastorate of Mr. Carruthers, the services of an evangelist, the Rev. A. J. Hainer, were enjoyed, "which resulted in the conversion of a large number of persons, and our church was greatly strengthened and blessed." The present number of members is one hundred and thirty two.

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Congregationalism.

By Professor CLARENCE A. BECKWITH, Bangor Theological Seminary.

CONGREGATIONALISM as a polity stands for the independence of the local church, in which all the members have equal rights, duties and privileges. Each church is complete in itself, that is, it has exclusive power to make its own rules, choose its officers, admit, dismiss, and discipline its members, regulate its mode of worship, and transact all other business. It is therefore independent of external control, responsible only to Christ. Of equal importance with the principle of independence is that of fellowship of sister churches through advisory councils, conferences, associations and missionary activities. Its constitutive principles are, therefore, equality of all its members, independence of the local church, and the fellowship of sister churches.

Congregationalism as a belief draws from the Scriptures which reveal God in Christ the truth which reappears in its teachings and in its life. Its doctrinal positions, instead of being fixed and unchangeable, advance in accord with the widening convictions of successive generations of Christian beliefs.

Congregationalism as a mode of worship is susceptible of unlimited variety in its liturgical form from a simple Puritan service to an elaborate ritual and imposing ceremony.

Congregationalism as a working organization adapts itself to all sorts of conditions—the church in the great city, in the quiet village, and in the community of scattered homes. In baptism it follows the preference of each believer. It inducts to the pastoral office according as the congregation East or West elects. On its broad basis of Christian experience, of allegiance to the revelation of God's grace in Jesus Christ in the Scriptures, of independence and of fellowship, Christians of every shade of belief and denominational affinity, unite for worship and for service; especially in those places where by reason of depletion of membership churches advantageously combine for more effective ministry.



The Original Berlin Falls.

Congregationalism as a denomination,—the collective title of which is "The Congregational Churches,"—through its various administrative agencies of benevolence and mission work, of theological education and ministerial standing, through its publishing house and manifold literature, but most through its Triennial National Councils, is developing a denominational spirit; it is thus becoming ever more conscious of its distinctive vocation.

Congregationalism as one denomination among many regards all churches which bear the Christian name as equally the servants of Christ, is in unfeigned sympathy with their aims, and is ready to co-operate with them in whatever furthers the kingdom of God.

To the foregoing statement by Professor Beckwith may properly be added statistics showing the growth of Congregationalism.

Year	Churches	Ministers	Members
1860	2583	2634	253,765
1870	3121	3098	306,518
1880	3745	3577	384,332
1890	4817	4619	506,832
1900	5650	5568	633,349
1904	5821	5015	652,849

Negotiations are in progress which, if successful, as they bid fair to be, will result in the union of the Congregationalists, the United Brethren, and the Methodist Protestants, making a body of over a million communicants. This union is generally thought to be desirable if it can be consummated without the sacrifice of vital principles and with entire cordiality on the part of all. Otherwise it would be a misfortune.

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The valley of the Androscoggin, northerly from the White Mountain range, is far famed among the picturesque regions of New Hampshire. Formerly, and for many years, the principal trend of summer visitors was up this valley, and the rugged grandeur of the "White Hills" along the course of that meandering river, with green meadow, sparkling waters, and graceful slope of highland, prepared the tourist for the enchanting visons of the Switzerland of America. In the center of this valley, surrounded on all sides by tree-clad hills, is the Alpine village of Gorham. Its buildings are neat with well kept lawns, it is abundantly supplied with the purest water, the atmosphere is bracing, and an air of quiet, restful prosperity broods over it. Good stores, excellent churches, banks, telegraph and telephone offices, the very best of hotels, convenient railroad communication, and electric street cars, supply the needs of both inhabitants and visitors. It has a resident population of some two thousand souls, is the nearest railroad approach to the carriage road up Mt. Washington, and the site of the once celebrated "Glen House," and is the most convenient center for pedestrian tours in the whole mountain section. It is on the edge of enormous forest tracts, surrounded on every side by mountain peaks, with well defined paths, and on an altitude of some eight hundred feet above the sea.

The town was originally a part of Shelburne, and was, until incorporated as a town, under the present name of Gorham on June 18, 1836, spoken of as Shelburne Addition. A royal charter was granted of that section included within the present limits of Shelburne as early as 1768, but re-



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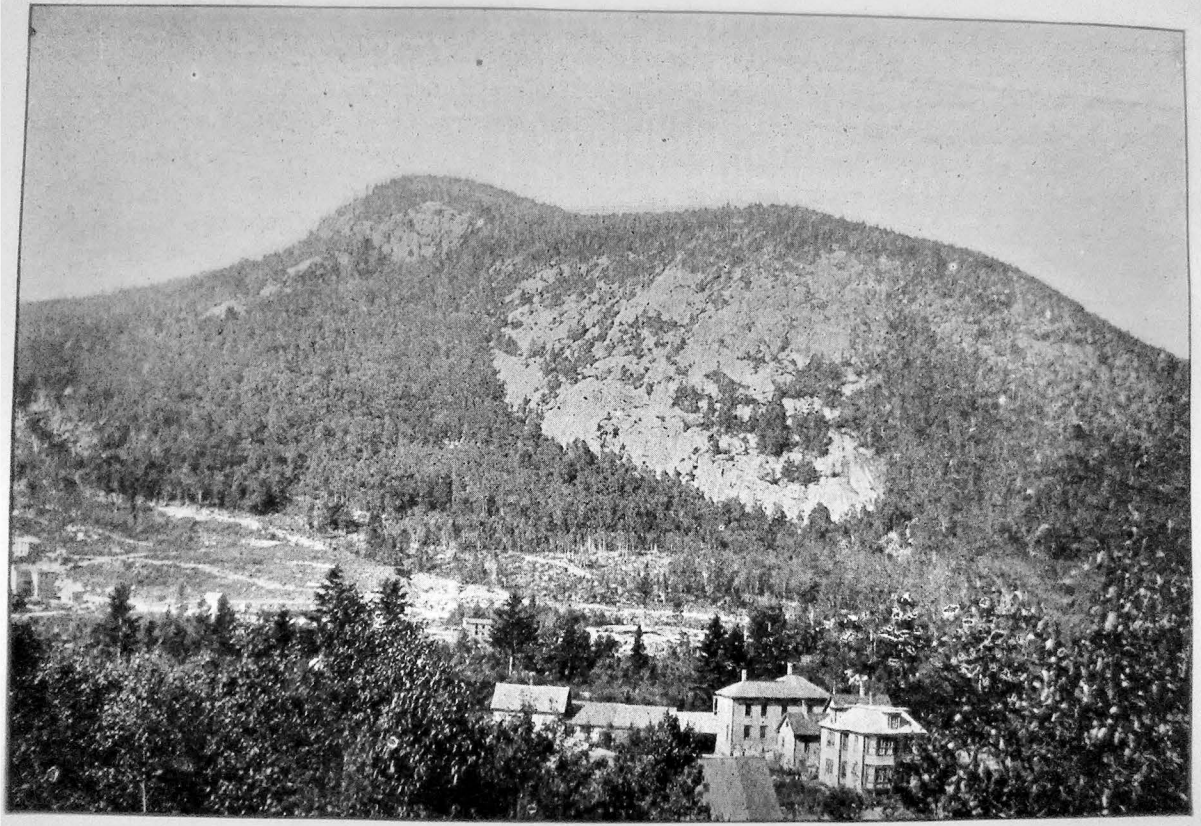
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chartered, including the Addition, in 1770. The easterly portion of Shelburne was at once settled, and in August 1781, the date of the Indian raid, and the killing of Peter Poor, it had quite a settlement, being the most westerly on the Androscoggin. A trail or road was made from Conway and the Saco valley, through the Pinkham Notch, across to the waters of the Androscoggin, following up the Ellis, and down the Peabody river, as early as 1774, and the first settler in the Addition came over this path in 1803 from Conway. This early pioneer, Bazalell Bennett, was followed, in 1805, by the Messer family from easterly Shelburne. The section was surveyed in 1802 by Uriah Holt, of Norway, Me., and was owned by M. W. Pierce, of Portsmouth and Benjamin Weld, of Brunswick, Me. In 1803 a road was opened from the Addition to the Connecticut valley, via Durand, now Randolph. In 1807 one Joseph Jackson from Maine purchased from Benjamin Weld the lot where the present village is located. Its value was rated at $25. There were two framed houses in the town in 1821, and the first school was taught, in 1823, by Miss Salome Mason, of Gilead, for $1. per week, and "boarding around." The great freshet of August 28, 1826, when the Willey family were destroyed in the Crawford Notch did extensive damage here, and one vacant log house was washed away.

In 1830 the population had increased to about one hundred, and a chain of settlers stretched from Shelburne to Durand. The first post-office in "Shelburne Addition" was established Dec. 12, 1833, with Hezekiah Ordway as postmaster. In 1843 Andrew G. Lary began the erection of the present Mountview house and opened it as a tavern. This was the first painted house in town. On July 19, 1836, the first town meeting was held, under the legislative act of incorporation, and selectmen and town officers elected, and the new town of Gorham began its existence. The Grand Trunk railroad, then the old Atlantic & St. Lawrence, came here in 1851, and in 1852 its repair shops were located here, the Alpine house erected, and the present village began its building. There were at that time only three or four houses located upon its site. The town soon became the center of the summer-mountain travel, and the old Alpine house was the frequented home of such men as



Mount Forist.

Rev. Thomas Starr King, Jefferson Davis, ex-President Fillmore, Horace Greeley, Gen. U. S. Grant and others. Extensive lumbering interests were stimulated, and the neat, prosperous town was a result. The Boston & Maine railroad came in 1892. The removal of the railway repair shops to Deering, Me., in 1902, was more than offset by the extensive mill plant of the Berlin Mills company, at the Cascades, now nearing completion, with its auxiliary power plant at the upper village.

The plant of the Cascade Electric Light & Power Co. at the junction of the Peabody river with the Androscoggin, immediately below the village, is an important adjunct to the business interests of this section. It furnishes lighting for Gorham, and a greater part of the city of Berlin as well as power for various industries here and there, and supplies the power for the Berlin Street Railway.

It may be interesting to note, in connection with the coming of the state Congregational Association to this section, something of the earlier ecclesiastical history of this vicinity. Revs. Zachariah Jordan, of Raymond, Me., and Dudley Pettengill, of Sandwich, N. H., were the pioneer missionary preachers, coming over from the Saco valley, and traveling about among the early settlers. They were Free-Will Baptists, and as early as 1807 they reported a revival in Durand. They organized a church there prior to 1816, and in 1823 Elder John Morse, and Samuel Wheeler were delegates from the Durand church to the Lisbon Quarterly Conference. Elder Morse was ordained in 1833, and he organized a branch of his East Jefferson, or Randolph, church on Gorham Hill about 1842, but all record disappears about 1852. Shelburne had a union church organization in 1818 with seventeen members, and the first meeting house in this section of the state was built there in 1832. After the advent of the railroad, in 1851, steps were taken for the establishment of a new school district in Gorham, and the first school-house in the village was built in 1855. Religious meetings were then held in this school-house, instead of the school-house at Lary's, and various dwelling houses, and Rev. Mr. Burt came here as a Congregational preacher under the patronage of the N. H. Missionary Society in 1856. He was followed by the Rev. Geo. F. Tewksbury, of

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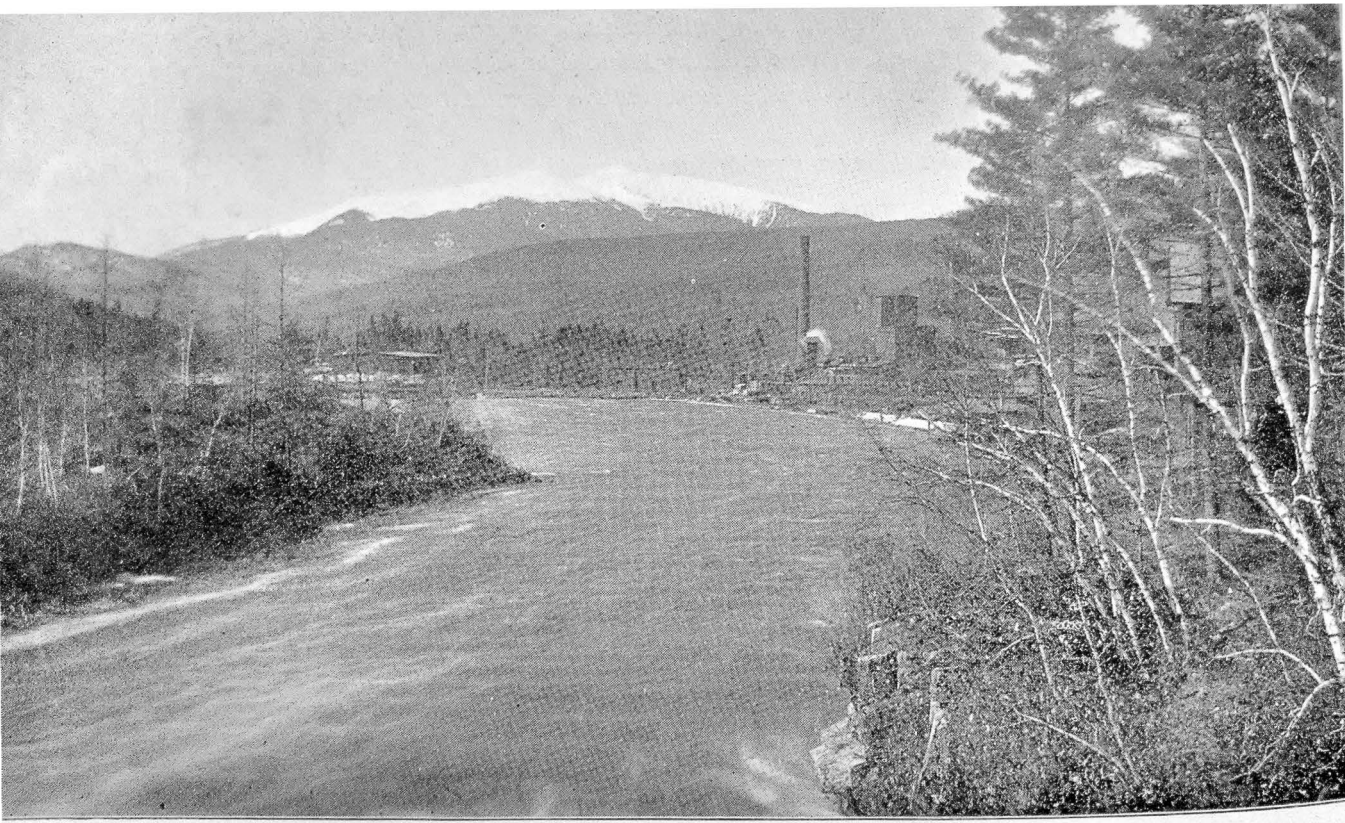
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Oxford, Me., who organized a Congregational church in 1862, and the same year, under his leadership, the present Congregational church was built and dedicated. The Methodist church building was erected in 1863. A Catholic church was built in 1870, and the Universalist was dedicated in 1890. The little Chapel, near the Gorham line, in Randolph, but really an adjunct of the Congregational society here, was built under the auspicies of the Rev. Mr. Benedict in 1883. All these various societies are well sustained.

Gorham has never in its history entered upon a municipal year with brighter prospects for commercial activity, and a satisfactory business outlook. Trade is improving, new buildings are being erected, and public improvements are noted on every hand. Surrounded and guarded by the "everlasting hills," a gem among the mountains, nature itself vouchsafes a successful future.



Looking down the Androscoggin. White Mountains in the Distance.

...The Paper City--A Sketch...

For only a short distance does the meandering Androscoggin, having its source in the famous lake region of western Maine, flow through New Hampshire when it again returns into the Pine Tree state, passing onward to its junction with the Kennebec and furnishing along its course the immense water power that turns the wheels at Rumford Falls, Lewiston, Lisbon Falls, Pejepscot, Brunswick and other smaller mill towns. But in that short distance, at the most rugged point in its entire course, where it breaks through the north-easterly projection of the northern Presidential range of the White Mountains, has grown up in the past few years the thriving and prosperous city of Berlin.

The water power along the river here for a distance of eight miles is one of the best in New England, famous the world over for its magnificent water powers, and these bounties here vouchsafed by Mother Nature are being rapidly developed. Berlin is the only city in northern New Hampshire and its growth has been decidedly remarkable for a New England city. It has often been called a "boom town," but this term should not be applied in its usually accepted sense for the reason that it is built upon a firm foundation (we do not refer to the rocks) and one that will endure for many years. Her growth is distinctly not the result of financial speculation. She is located in close proximity to the vast lumber regions of northern New Hampshire, western Maine and southern Canada and she has, as well, the unrivalled water power and good railroad facilities, the necessary complements of her lumber supply for the developement of her business industries.

The rapid strides in the art of paper making and the tremendous increase in the use of this commodity the world over have only served to hasten the rapidity of her growth. Berlin is distinctly a "Paper City." And so long as paper continues to be used and to be manufactured from the fibre of the forest, so long will Berlin continue in being. Much is heard about the destruction

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of our forests, but that is one of the remote future possibilities at the best. More careful measures are being employed year by year in the conservation of the forest product and the new ideas that are developing along the line of reforestation are ensuring to the present generation, at least, abundant resource for the continuance of the pulp and paper industry on its present large scale.

Berlin is a cosmopolitan city. Her population is composed of all classes with the French Canadian largely in the majority. The nature of the leading business and the proximity to the Province of Quebec are responsible for this predominant factor. The "community" so characteristic of most New England towns, especially those of older growth, is almost an unknown quantity here. A large proportion of the present residents are alien to the city and even to New Hampshire, by birth. They have been attracted here by the business possibilities and it is but natural that the folklore and sentiment which cluster about the towns of early settlement should be almost entirely wanting. She cannot, as can many of her sister towns, look back and point with pride to the long list of distinguished men and women who have gone out from her borders along the passing years and made for themselves name and fame. Her history is in the present and in the future.

As suggested above, the manufacture of pulp and paper is the backbone and mainstay of her growth and prosperity and the foundation upon which are built her future posibilities and prospects.

The three great mill companies whose businesses are responsible for the Berlin of today are the International Paper Co., formerly the Glen Manufacturing Co., the Berlin Mills Co. and the Burgess Sulphite Fibre Co. These three companies have under their direction in their various capacities a total of nearly, if not quite, 2000 men.

The six mills of the International Paper Co. in this city have been in the hands of this company for about six years and they turn out an average product of about 150 tons of newspaper per day. This is furnished largely to the metropolitan dailies of our larger cities, especially Boston and Chicago. Alterations and improvements in the plant are in progress during the present season and others of a larger and more important character are in contemplation for the near future, which will materially increase the efficiency and capacity of the mills.

To All Ye Good Berlin Folk

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The Burgess Sulphite Fibre Co. was established in 1892 and has been an important factor in the developement of the city since that time. The plant covers between three and four acres, employs about 400 men and has a capacity of from 225 to 250 tons of air dry fibre per day.

The Berlin Mills Co., which is known far and wide as one of the leading industrial concerns of New England, was established in 1852. Since that time it has been steadily growing and developing. Its business up to the present time has been divided between lumber and paper with the paper department coming more and more to the front. The present Berlin Mills village where the sessions of this association are held has been the outgrowth of the business of this company.

Having outgrown the capacity of its present plant the company has recently started the developement of one of the largest pulp and paper plants in New England. For a description of this immense venture we quote an article recently published in the Berlin Reporter.

"The work of construction at the new works just below the city has now been going on for nearly two years and so steadily have the crews been at their undertaking that the large and roomy brick buildings seem to have sprung into existence almost as if by magic. Since the first alarm was given at the time of the beginning of the work, the matter has not been called to the public's attention, except when an occasional Italian laborer, amusing himself by picking a stick of dynamite was hastened into the other world, or else a spark setting fire to their shanties called out the fire department and gave the spot a thorough cleaning up. In the spring of 1903 only piles of dirt and rock were to be seen, then in midsummer the tall chimney started and almost equaled in rapidity of growth that of the famous beanstalk of Mother Goose. Next the steel skeletons were stretched in space and as if by supernatural means these were quickly enveloped in brick, and today we find the nearly completed structures where but a short time ago was only debris.

"Though the location of these mills is mainly in the town of Gorham, yet Berlin feels a sort of proprietorship for having so long had in her territory the main mills of the company and because of the nearness to our city. The dividing line between the two towns runs just north of the large dam and, except the grinding mill, the buildings are all in the smaller town.

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"The surveys were made in the summer of 1901. The real work was not begun until September of 1902 when workmen began to clear up the site, then covered with mongrel growth of bushes and stunted trees. This work was kept up during the winter months and some excavation was begun early in the spring of 1903. As soon as the season was well on as large a number of laborers as could be conveniently handled was put at the work and but little time has been wasted since.

"The highway which used to follow quite closely the bank of the river has changed its course and its former site is now obliterated and occupied by these buildings. The new road was literally dug from the rocks which constituted the site of the hill and now makes a broad smooth path on the west side of the electric road and one of the prettiest drives in the near neighborhood of our city. The whole valley above the mills has been cleared up as has much of the smaller growth on the company's land and the rough aspect has in a measure been thus removed.

"Within a year a new railroad has sprung into existence, extending from the mills of the company above the city along the east bank of the river and parallel to the line of the Boston & Maine, which it crosses at a little distance above the new mills by means of an underpass. A steel bridge has been put in across the river to accommodate the new road and from this point it extends to the new yard tracks, running along the western side of the Androscoggin. This work has been no mean undertaking as one familiar with the route will know. Rugged hills have been leveled and trestles have been built to span gulches, but the line is now in active operation. A spur line has been built by the Grand Trunk extending from a point opposite the park casino and joining the track of the company at the northern end of their yard. Thus ready communication with either the Grand Trunk or the Boston & Maine is secured.

"The new plant is divided into into three sections which are located in three separate water privileges. The first of these, in proceeding down the river, is what is called the upper dam, the second is the main plant at the Cascades proper and the third is the electric light plant now going in just north of the Boston & Maine trestle, above Gorham village.

"The first of these, or the upper dam, situated a short distance below the International Paper

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company's lower mill, consists of a concrete dam 25 feet high. This will give a 5000 horse power and is to be used in operating the wood-grinding mill. The product will be carried to the second plant by gravity.

"Going farther down the river we come to the main plant which is a mammoth structure of its kind. It is situated on the western bank of the river, on a comparatively level strip of the valley which is wider at this point than further up. The sharp descent affords the immense power now being harnessed. The location offered many features which would aid in placing the dam. The point of land extending from the eastern shore and the large ledge at about the middle of the old channel afforded a good foundation upon which to rest the main dam and these have both been utilized. The knolls and ledges which were formerly the chief features of the landscape have been made over and are now distributed at various points beneath, in, or around the buildings.

"The dam itself, which is the first point of interest, is a high wall of concrete. In shape it is circular with the outer or longer surface facing up stream. Its eastern end is founded on the point of land and culminates in an immense block of concrete. Its center rests on the ledge mentioned above and at its western termination is the gate-house and the gates, 13 in number. The gate-house reaches to a convenient knoll, thus tying together in one wall three natural points of anchorage. The dam is 316 feet long and as it now stands will give 8000 horse power. It is so arranged that if at some time in the future more power is required, an addition may be readily made and the power increased. This dam was completed December 5 1903.

"Below the dam is an enclosure of some three acres surrounded by a concrete wall on the riverside, the gates at the head of penstocks and the wall of the mill on the southern side, the wall of the boiler house on the western, while the gates of the dam form the northern side. This bay is fed from the gates of the dam and in turn supplies water to the wheels of the mill.

Space forbids our giving an extended description of the mills themselves. The buildings consist of a boiler house with room for nine boilers which will furnish 5000 horse power. The grinder and wood rooms are both very large having dimensions averaging nearly 150 feet. The sul-

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phite department has a capacity of about 80 tons per day. In addition to these are the screen rooms and the beater room, each having three floors and being thoroughly equipped for their respective classes of work. In order following these come the machine room, with dimensions of 150 by 240 feet, the finishing room, 124 by 146; then the storage room and the main office complete the extensive structure on the southerly end. The chimney is an enormous tower standing 233 feet in height.

"Going down the river about three miles to the third and by no means least of this extensive industrial system we come to the lower dam. This dam is a concrete wall 300 feet in length affording a 25 foot head when completed. Leading from the dam on the eastern side of the river is a wide and deep canal 3800 feet long. At the foot of the canal is located the power house. The dam at the head of the canal holds back sufficient water to give 3000 horse power and this will be transmitted to the mills farther up the river.

"At this latter place the main highway has been again altered and in its place we find the western end of the new dam. The new road with the electric car road leads over the hill and again comes into the old road near the Peabody home.

"When completed the mills will give employment to about five hundred men. Of these quite a per cent. will be of the skilled class and will add a perceptable increase to the population of our city."

In addition to these plants above described the city has a large foundry, a shoe shop (which is now temporarily closed,) and several other smaller industries.

An electric railroad was constructed in 1902 connecting with the village of Gorham six miles down the river. This line is an important commercial element in the city uniting as it does the three localities along the river and taking the traveler through a picturesque bit of mountain scenery

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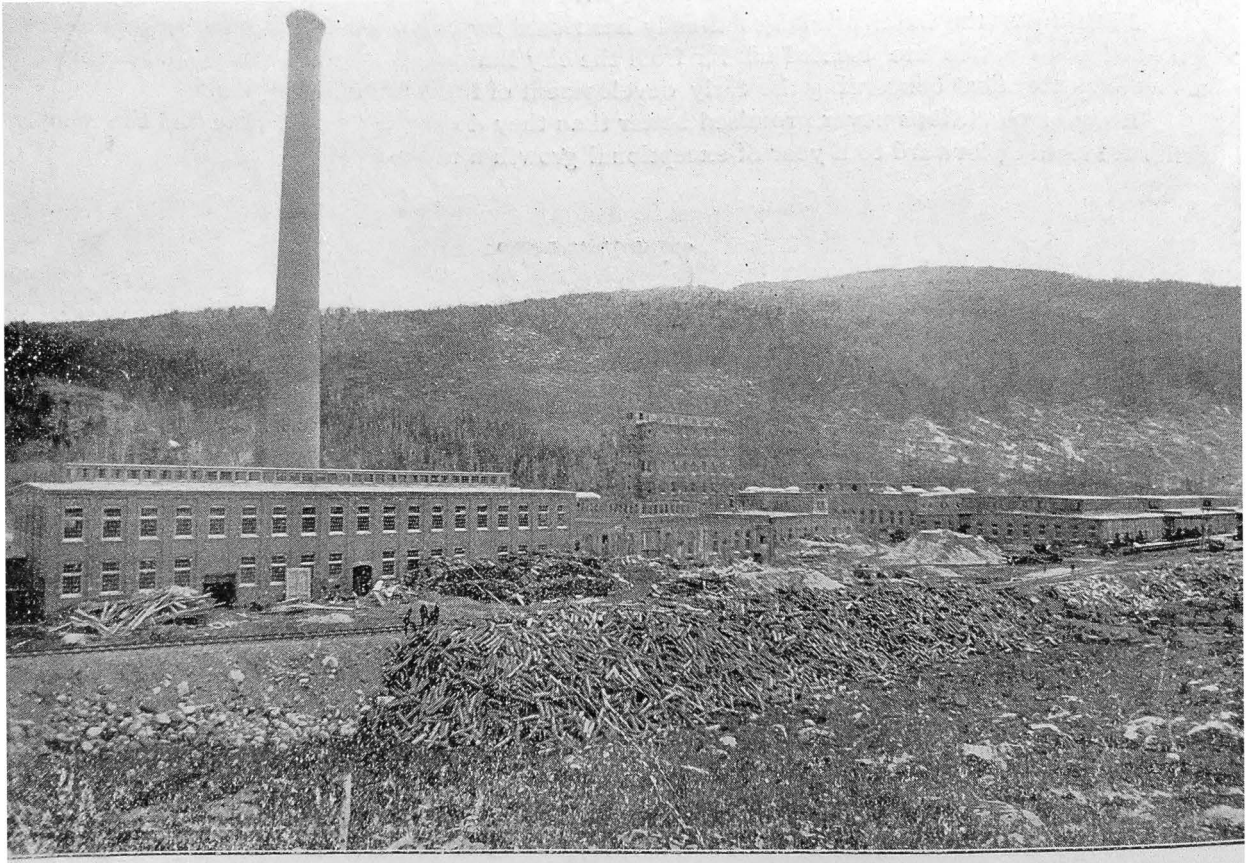
Berlin, N. H.

with an excellent view of the Presidential range with its white capped peaks and rock-ribbed slopes.

Aside from the water privileges already harnessed for commercial purposes others with unfathomed possibilities are located not far from the city limits and rumors with quite substantial foundations are afloat concerning the early development of these untamed rapids.

Business conditions never promised better than they do at the present time and the people of Berlin are looking forward to a year of exceptional growth and prosperity.





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